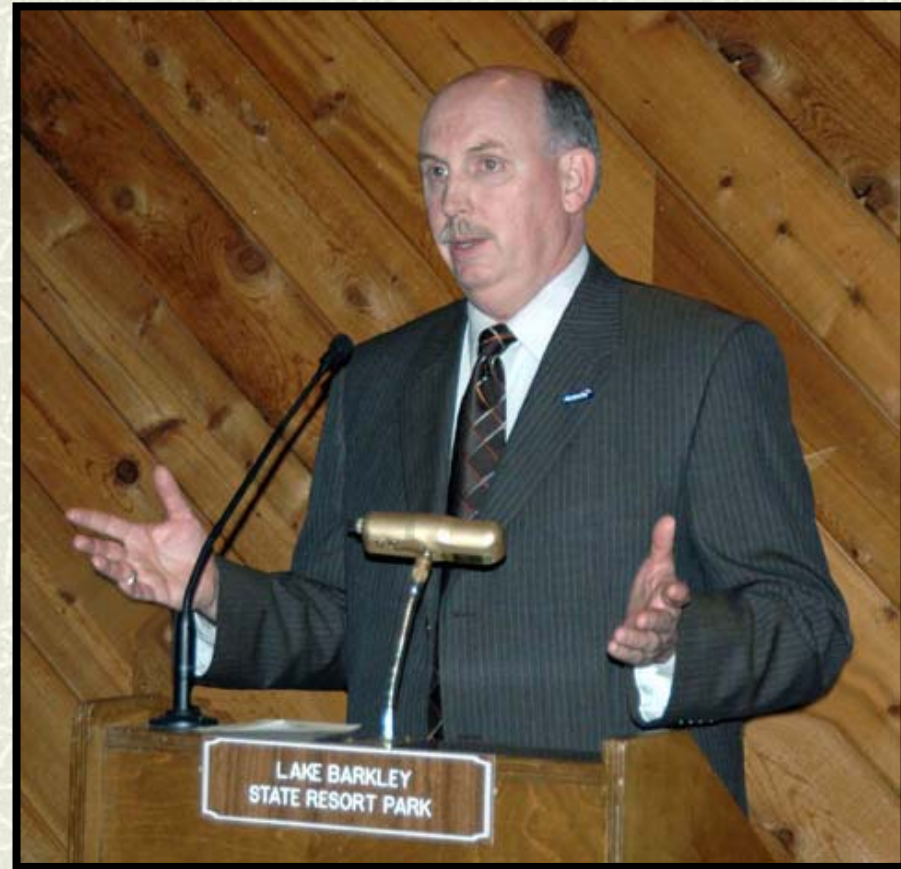


New Executive Director David Billingsley Sites Agenda for OCTE

“I’m honored to have been chosen to lead the Office of Career and Technical Education,” was the first message all KY Tech principals and one instructor from each ATC heard from Executive Director David Billingsley during a SACS Accreditation Continuous Improvement meeting at Lake Barkley on March 1, 2006.

On the job since February 1, it was the first opportunity for Billingsley to clearly articulate two specific goals for each ATC to meet in order to continue to move the system forward and develop successes along the way. The goals are:

- 1. To achieve SACS Accreditation for the KY Tech System of Schools.**
- 2. To obtain four (4) or more Perkins measures at each ATC.**



OCTE Executive Director David Billingsley addresses KY Tech principals and instructors during training session at Lake Barkley.

Both goals are distinctly tied to OCTE's vision, mission and goals. "When we complete this process, we will be the *first* state Office of Career and Technical Education in the nation to have an entire system accredited," said Billingsley. "This will provide us with a national presence and put our system on the same level with academics."

Billingsley relayed that he had received reports indicating ATCs were not achieving as well as high schools in meeting Perkins performance measures and that he would like to see every school in the system obtain four or more measures annually.

"We are the recognized leaders of career and technical education in this state, so it's imperative that we have high achieving schools," said Billingsley. "One of these measures, the one listed first in the legislation is *academic achievement*. There is a reason it's at the forefront. When Perkins legislation was developed, business and industry needs were considered. At the top of their list was a *higher level of basic academic skills* from their workforce."



Photo (L to R): Belfry ATC Health Sciences Instructor Melissa Scarberry and Belfry ATC Principal Annette Ward; Barren Co. ATC Office Technology Instructor Ashley Bell and Principal Hal Toms

For the benefit of those unfamiliar with the importance of Perkins administration as it relates to KY Tech, he offered the following explanation, “OCTE administers Perkins funding for locally operated schools, postsecondary institutions and all 55 area technology centers. This is a big responsibility, as well as an important and advantageous role for our system. If we don’t do it well, then we might lose that privilege.”

Billingsley took a moment to speak directly to all the instructors by saying, “I have always said that CTE teachers have the most difficult job in the teaching profession because they are asked to teach technical, academic and employability skills.”

He then asked, “Do I want our technical teachers to become academic teachers? Absolutely Not! Here’s what I would like to see. We need to

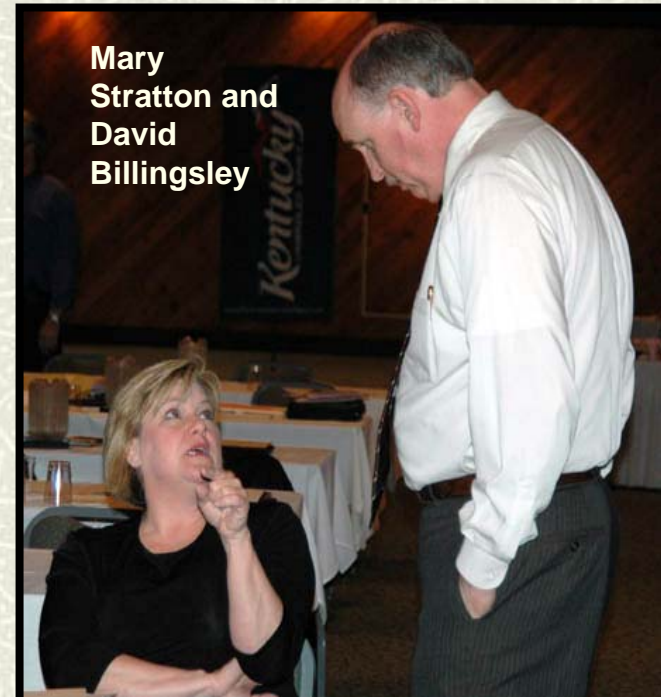
capitalize on every opportunity to teach our students an academic skill or strategy as it relates to our curriculum. It’s important to understand this concept: We should try to fit the core content to

our curriculum as the opportunity presents itself; not fit our curriculum to the core content.”

New Russellville
Principal Grayson
Wells and
Billingsley.



Mary
Stratton and
David
Billingsley



He also took time to congratulate principals for working with their local districts in the area of academic integration.

“It is my understanding that we have a number of schools that have been forging ahead in the area of integration of academics. The partnership in Northern KY between J.D. Patton ATC and Kenton Co. schools is a good example of a connection between academic and technical worlds,” said Billingsley. “We have some schools that have been able to obtain academic teachers from the local district. Please explore the possibility of an English and math teacher in your school provided by the local district. The English teacher could be integral for your students achievement on the writing portion of the CATS test.”

Billingsley concluded his speech by saying, “Through teamwork, I feel that we can accomplish these goals and produce high quality individuals who are ready for the workforce or want to further their education. I hope you will commit yourself to these goals as well as others that I will share at a later date.”

Comments from ATC principals regarding David Billingsley’s first message included:

“When Mr. Billingsley began with the focus on the accomplishments of our ATCs, he defined himself as a positive thinker and positive thinkers make great leaders. I appreciate his background and experience in not only technical education, but also, general education because now, more than ever before, a blending of the two approaches in education needs to happen to ensure the success of our students.”

Marsha Martin, Greenup Co. ATC principal

**Faye and Meade Co.
ATC Carpentry
Instructor Jeff
Gutermuth**



“Mr. Billingsley shows a genuine concern for two major issues impacting career and technical education – SACS accreditation and Perkins performance measures. I am pleased that his background gives him experience that will aid his understanding of ACTs from both the faculty and administrative points of view.”

Faye Campbell, Meade Co. ATC principal

“Mr. Billingsley gave me confidence that he is going to help us continue moving in the right direction without the fear of major changes in direction. I also appreciate his comments about the mutual role we have with high school teachers in the academic success of our students – and, that this happens not by fitting our curriculum into core content, but, by finding ways to fit core content into KY Tech curriculum.”

Tom Pyron, Fulton Co. ATC principal



“Mr. Billingsley delivered a direction we needed at this time – two clear goals for SACS accreditation and improving Perkins accountability.

In this short time, he already seems to know where we are and where we need to go. I look forward to his leadership because he understands our system. He is a ‘home grown’ leader who was a technical teacher, STW coordinator and school principal.”

Karen Bothun, Clark Co. ATC principal



**Bothun and Clark Co. Information
Technology Instructor James Garrison**

“I’m glad to see that the KY Tech vision, mission and goals are at the forefront of Mr. Billingsley’s agenda. We now have a clear direction of where we are going and can focus on meeting his two specific goals. I appreciate his communication skills and willingness to offer technical support from the central office. It’s important for us to know that he supports our efforts. ”

Lenville Martin, Floyd Co. ATC principal

“With clear, specific goals, Executive Director David Billingsley challenged teachers and principals to attain SACS accreditation and meet four Perkins accountability standards.”

Jennifer Stafford, Carroll Co. ATC principal



**Stafford and Carroll Co. ATC
Office Technology Instructor
Crystal Raiser**

“Mr. Billingsley set the stage for better communication between the ATCs and OCTE. He clarified specific goals for ATCs and recognizes there is a need to spend more time on curriculum development. I’m impressed that he wants to visit all the ATCs in the state and that he comes from a technical education background.”

Barbara Ison, Letcher Co. ATC principal

“Director Billingsley provided two clear goals for me as principal to help my school achieve – to meet four of seven Perkins accountability measures and to become SACS accredited.”

David Horseman, Casey Co. ATC principal

**Guffey and Wayne Co. ATC Office Technology
Instructor Lora Grant**



“My first impression of Executive Director David Billingsley is that he will be involved in all initiatives implemented by his office. I felt his remarks were sincere and that he has a clear focus in mind for the future success of OCTE.”

Danny Guffey, Wayne Co. ATC principal

“Mr. Billingsley’s discussion was exciting. He shared specific areas of concern he sees within the system while at the same time offering realistic goals and plans to address these concerns. Knowing where you are and where you need to go makes drawing the map to success much easier to achieve.”

Ray Stanley, J.D. Patton ATC principal

“I feel this meeting was very productive because it brought a focus and clarity on the future of KY Tech. I was excited to hear from our new Executive Director David Billingsley for the first time and was impressed by his ability to step into this critical position. He understands where we are, correctly identified what we need and presented a plan that will clearly lead us in the right direction so we can go back to our schools and communities knowing what he expects and striving to meet his expectations.”

Barney Judd, Bell Co. ATC principal

“As a principal and chairman of the Principals’ Advisory Board, I was very impressed with Executive Director David Billingsley’s remarks. He gave us a clear plan and direction for our future in CTE. Having a leader who shares our vision is vital to our success. It is apparent that his experience and knowledge will lead us into successful SACS accreditation and under his leadership, we will become a model for ATCs throughout the nation.”

Annette Harris-Ward, Belfry ATC principal

VISION

To be an educational system that serves the needs of all students pursuing technical education and skills training.

MISSION

To develop a versatile individual by providing technical education and skills training in a safe environment.

GOALS

- **Provide technical skills training to secondary students that leads to successful post high school transition.**
- **Enhance career exploration options for secondary students.**
- **Collaborate with local school districts to enhance the educational growth of all students.**
- **Respond to the training needs of business and industry for the community.**
- **Become an Area Center of Excellence for continuous improvement of quality technical education for life long learning.**



**Good News Story #149
March 6, 2006**

